

THE **Louis Berger Group**, INC.

LATE WOODLAND
COMPONENTS
AT
C & O CANAL
NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK



Stuart Fiedel, Ph.D.

November 18, 2003





- ▶ National Park Service
- ▶ Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program
- ▶ 3-year program
- ▶ Identification and Evaluation
- ▶ 59 miles, Georgetown to Sandy Hook



Deeply stratified sites

Multiple Buried A-Horizons

Auger-testing at 14 locations

**Stepped excavation of stream
cutbanks at Tuscarora
Creek and Broad Run**

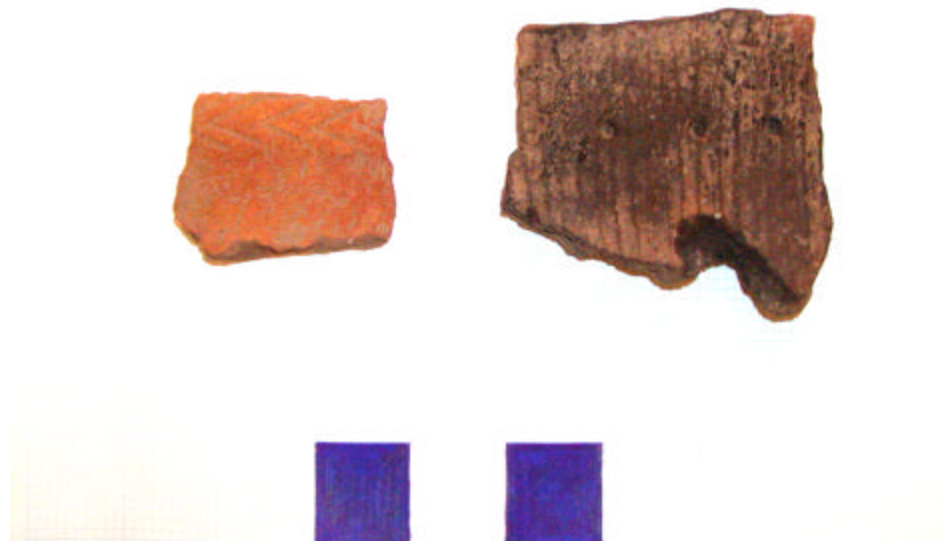


BROAD RUN

2 A-horizons:

- ▶ Upper, 1.5-2 feet below surface—Late Woodland, ca. AD 1200-1500
- ▶ Lower, 7 feet below surface—Late Archaic, ca. 4000 BP (before present): Savannah River Broadspear complex





Broad Run: Late Woodland ceramic sherds



TUSCARORA CREEK

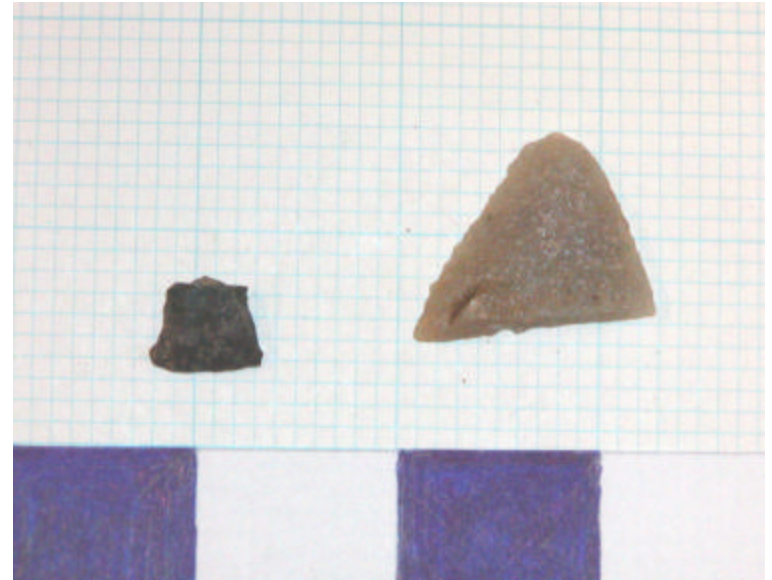
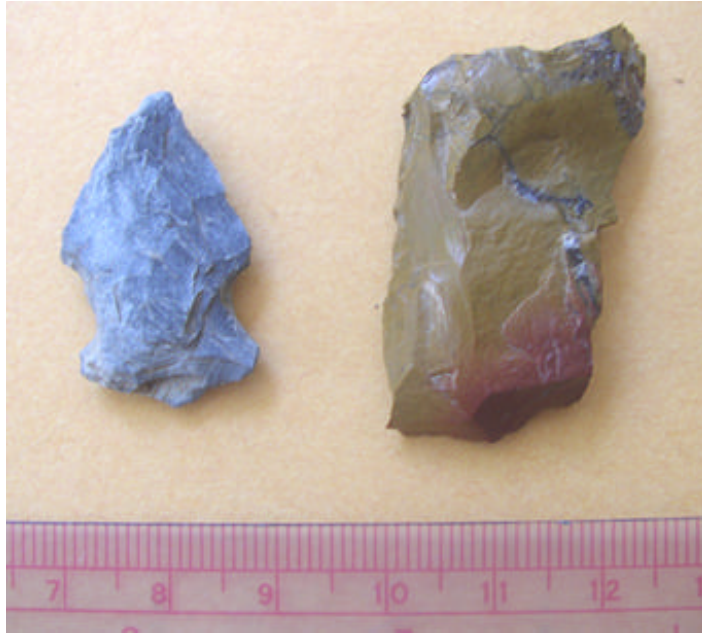
3 horizons:

Late Woodland (top)

Early Woodland (3 ft below surface)

Paleoindian/Early Archaic
(7 ft below surface)





Tuscarora Creek artifacts, lowest horizon: Jasper, chalcedony, grey and black chert, quartz, rhyolite, quartzite

18MO10 surface find

Spurred Endscraper, jasper/chalcedony



13,000 YEARS OF PREHISTORY

Paleoindian

Archaic

4000 BP: Late Archaic population peak?

3000 BP: Early Woodland ceramics

**2500-1000 BP Middle Woodland-occupation hiatus
in Piedmont**

Late Woodland AD 900-1600

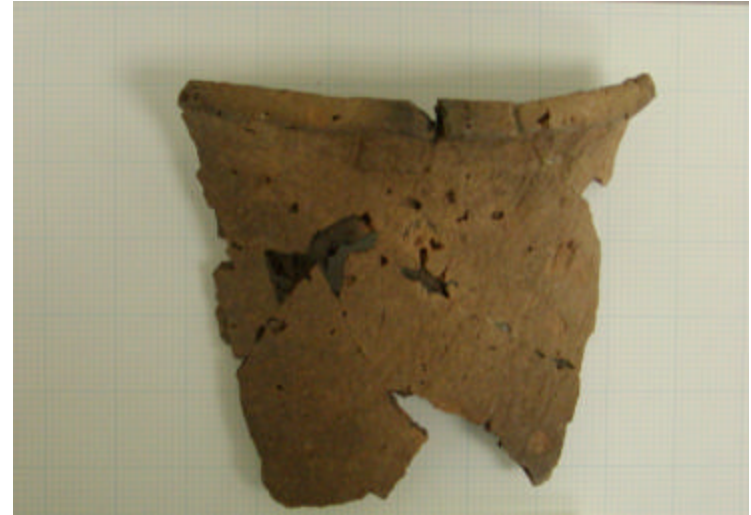


Montgomery Complex

Shepard ware (cal AD 900-1400)



- ▶ Mason Island (Page ware, limestone temper)
cal AD 1050-1300



- ▶ Luray (Keyser ware, shell temper)
cal AD 1300-1600



► Late Woodland
triangular arrow points



DEPOPULATION OF THE POTOMAC PIEDMONT BEFORE AD 1600

WHY?

1. CLIMATE

Little Ice Age (AD 1350-1850)

Great Droughts (AD 1320-1400, AD 1525-1650)

2. WARFARE

Susquehannocks, Massawomecks

3. EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Thomas Hariot, North Carolina Coast, 1585:

"The people began to die very fast. In some towns twenty people died, in some forty, in some sixty, and in one sixscore; this was a large portion of the inhabitants. And the strange thing was that this occurred only in towns where we had been...and it happened always after we had left."

